He hated going into the cellar to search for Barbies, especially as they were still in the heap of polyethylene garbage bags that Moll had given them, and he didn't know which ones.

It was like opening body bags in the lair of a serial killer....

Dildo Wingnut?

In the semi-darkness by the fuse boxes he grasped tiny heads of hair, tinier pairs of feet. He knew.

It was REX's stash!

The Barbie bag!

He carried it upstairs and tore it open, without bothering to undo the knot....

*****

J. Zeus Murphy set himself up in a swell pad. Rented a loft in the former Vinnie Massive Lampworks.

Vinnie had opened the factory at the beginning of World War I, to supply Dadanian diplomatic missions with Turkish lamps. They were diverted to shell-shock victims.

Vinnie had been disgusted and bored by the old Massive family business; tractors and combines were sadly limited in terms of the opportunities they presented for drag.

Upon the Allied Victory, bored even with this extravagance, he had retired with his fortune to pursue a career in heraldry, as the first native-born and most fantastic Governor-General of Dadania. He appeared everywhere, at the opening of parliament or a curling match, buried beneath a ceremonial panoply of tassels and flanges, resembling nothing so much as a Turkish lamp. J. Zeus Murphy was always finding bits of glass, silk cord, etc. in the crevices between his floorboards....

Now he needed furniture, pieces that would make his loft look like the madame's office in a bordello, as well as a home. He especially wanted a large desk or dining table to impress his visitors with while they awaited his always busy self. He would place a computer on it, featuring programs about himself and his numerous projects....

*****

Johnny confessed to Trixie. He hated loonies, notwithstanding that he was one himself.

She emphatically agreed. I mean, I hate them too, she clarified.

Today she'd wanted to shove a hypodermic up the ass of a client. He told her to get lost, so she did. Then he took the entire ward, including three members of the staff, hostage. It was a code white situation. She was blamed for it. For doing what the patient told her to do. For going away....

*****

Sharpshanks started coming three times a day again. Then he'd suddenly appear with 15 or 20 dollars and offer it to Johnny, with a dignified statement. Johnny, I owe you some money. An hour later he'd appear in the doorway, holding his hands together in front of his